The Nursing Workload of the Patients in Intensive Care Unit and Related Factors in teaching hospitals of Ardebil University of Medical Sciences

Thesis for the degree of MS in Critical Care Nursing

Supervisor: Dr. Ahmad ali asadi noghabi
Co Supervisor: Dr. Hamid peyravi
Co Supervisor: Abbas mehran

Roghayeh Rasouli
Feb 2013
Abstract

**Background and Objectives:** Nursing is a complicated and humanitarian activity which helps individuals and society to develop and survive and directs them toward wellbeing and improvement. With regard to the severe shortage of nurses, measuring the proportion of nurse/patient and appropriately allocating nursing force according to this measurement is the first step in maintaining the quality of nursing cares. The issue of nursing workload, patients and quality of care at critical care units enjoys a lot of importance since the conditions of patients hospitalized at these units is more chronic and requires further caring. The aim of this study is to explore nursing workload at critical care units and its related factors at hospitals of Ardabil University of Medical Sciences.

**Method:** This is a descriptive-analytical study which was based on 180 cases reported and registered nurses working in intensive care units in hospitals at critical surgery care units, Neurosurgery, open heart and Internal wards of hospitals affiliated with Ardabil University of Medical Sciences. In order to select the samples, the easy, available sampling method was used. The data was gathered by using two questionnaires: the Demographic Data Questionnaire and the Nursing Activities Standard Questionnaire. Accordingly, the data was analyzed through descriptive-inferential statistics (variance analysis, chi square, spearman, Croscall-Wallis) by using the SPSS 16 software.

**Findings:** The results of this research indicated that the average age of patients was 50.50±21.7 years. The average of nursing workload in these four wards was found to be 57.86±13.76 percent. The average workload of nursing in this research was 60.5±10. Among the studied cases, level of consciousness (P<0.001) and referral (p=0.041) had a statistically significant difference with nursing workload at critical care unit.

**Conclusion:** Among the investigated cases, the level of consciousness and referral location are effective in determining the nursing workload at critical care units.

**Key words:** workload, nurse, critical care unit, NAS